

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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VOLUME XX. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1855.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—THE MAN OF THE WORLD.

WILSON'S GARDEN, Broadway—THE FIVE-STAR-BARBER OF SEVILLE.

ADOLPH THEATRE, Broadway—THE MAN OF THE WORLD.

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Prince John Van Buren's Speech at Albany—President Pierce vs. the Administration.

The speech of Prince John Van Buren at Albany, which we published exclusively yesterday morning, was the best thing, by all odds, which has been brought out during our present State canvass. It is a crack speech, a remarkably interesting speech—in fact, under all the peculiar perplexing circumstances of the case, it is a perfect jewel of a speech, and ought to exalt the Prince among all magnanimous soft shells full five hundred per cent above the par standard of "squatter sovereignty."

We don't allude to the funny observations of the Prince upon the liquor question; nor to his facetious remarks upon Mat. Brennan and the Know Nothings; nor to his caustic commentaries upon Seward, Horace Greeley and Henry J. Raymond, Gen. Nye, Mr. Stanton and such; nor to his anti-slavery reminiscences of Daniel S. Dickinson; nor do we refer to his remarks concerning Mr. Peckham, John Wheeler and the Nebraska bill; nor to the fog bell of the Evening Post—upon all these interesting subjects the Prince, to be sure, touches with the hand of a skilful master of the piano, rattling over the keys with a perfect abandon, but "discouraging most eloquent music" all the while. The great feature of this happy speech at Albany is that branch of it which defines the nice distinction between President Pierce and the administration at Washington. It is here that even we of the HERALD owe our special thanks to the Prince; for we had supposed down to last Tuesday evening that Franklin Pierce and the administration at Washington were pretty nearly the same thing. But since the reading on Wednesday morning of the Prince's nice and sensible distinctions, we fully appreciate the extent of our great mistake in this business.

It is clear that the Prince has found most satisfactorily that the Kitchen Cabinet and their organ, the Union, are the administration, while Franklin Pierce is nothing more than the President of the United States, *de jure*. The Prince proves that the President, from the appointment to the best of his offices of such men as Gen. Dix, Mr. Fowler, our Postmaster, and other Van Buren men of the Buffalo platform, is with the *bona fide* Van Buren soft shells; but from the assault of the Cabinet organ upon all those gentlemen and their principles, including the President himself and his "Scarlet Letter," we have the proof that the administration is opposed to the President. The Prince assures us, too, that this is not the first, but the second or third time that the administration has stood out in opposition to the President. At present, this division in the federal government is upon the White House succession. The President is for Mr. Pierce, and the administration is for Mr. Buchanan. Accordingly, while poor Mr. Pierce gave to the Prince at Washington all the comfort in his power, it was overwhelmed by the superior weight of the administration against him, including Marcy, who is shifting his sails to catch the passing wind on Pennsylvania avenue.

This explains the mystery of the "milk in the cocoa nut," and the ex-communication of the Prince from the democratic church by the Cabinet organ. Marcy wishes to shove Mr. Pierce and the Prince overboard, and the Kitchen Cabinet wish to make an opening—a half shell opening—in New York for Buchanan. But mark the results. The New York democracy will not take their oysters this time on the half shell, and the Prince assures us that whatever Mr. Pierce may lose, the administration will be defeated; and yet the democracy will be triumphant. This may seem paradoxical to plain people, but still the explanation is perfectly consistent with the imbroglio between the Prince and the President on the one side, and Marcy and the administration on the other.

The late visit of the Prince to Washington was a good thing, for it has resulted in these lucid expositions concerning the soft shells, the President and the administration, without which we should have gone into the election next Tuesday all in the dark. Now, through the agencies of telegraphs, railroads and fast horses, all the people of the State, including Herkimer and old benighted St. Lawrence, may be thoroughly illuminated upon these three important points: First—that the President is a friend and devotee of the Van Buren Buffalo party. Second—that the administration is opposed to the President; and thirdly, that in no possible event can the success of any party or faction in this election be considered a victory either for Mr. Pierce or the administration. Spread the information. A certified copy from the latest authorities.

EVIDENCE OF PRIESTS IN CRIMINAL CASES—PRIVILEGES OF THE CONFESSORIAL.—In another column will be found the report of the murder case which has just been tried in Richmond, Va., and which, owing to some novel features that it presented, seems to have excited a good deal of interest. It appears that the accused—a man named Cronin—had grounds for believing that his wife had become too intimate with a person named Byron, and in a fit of rage, caused by finding the latter in company with her, he inflicted on the unfortunate woman severe injuries, of which she sickened and died. Previous to her decease she made several statements denying her culpability, and affirming that she was persecuted by the attentions of Byron without there existing any favorable disposition towards him on her part, and that at the moment her husband discovered her with him, she was actually sheltering herself from his pursuit. On the part of the defence, the Rev. Mr. Teeling, a Catholic clergyman, was called, who stated that the deceased had denied her guilt to him, in her husband's presence, and that on finding her about to make, in the usual sacramental form, a confession, he ordered the husband to leave the room. Questions were then put by counsel to lay a ground for the introduction of this confession as evidence; but it appeared from the statement, not only of Mr. Teeling, but of the doctor who attended the deceased, that there was no reason to suppose that she felt herself in extreme danger when she made it. In declining to answer to the interrogatories put to him in connection with her confession, Mr. Teeling took occasion to enter upon a lengthened exposition of the doctrine and discipline of the Romish church, and declared that no power on earth—not even the Pope himself—could induce him to divulge the statements made to him under the seal of that sacrament. The energy of his language and the elaborate character of his explanations, caused a great sensation in court; and the scene, according to

the description given of it in our report, reminds one somewhat of the effect of those bursts of fanatical eloquence with which the reformers of old were in the habit of electrifying their hearers.

The decision given by Judge Meredith on the points raised by counsel, however conformable they may be to the tolerant spirit of our institutions, seems to us to be not quite sound in law. He ruled that no foundation had been laid for the introduction of the woman's confession; but not content with this, he takes the extra-judicial course of deciding in the affirmative the question—not properly before him—that a priest enjoyed the privilege of exemption from revealing what was communicated to him in the confessional. He based this latter opinion on two cases stated to have been decided in the English courts, in which even declarations made by Catholics to Protestant ministers were held to be inadmissible, though the clergymen, not regarding their confessions as sacramental, were willing to disclose all that was communicated to them.

We apprehend that the cases in question were decided in Scotland, and not in England, and that they presented some other features than those briefly stated. The law of England and Ireland, unlike that of Scotland and other countries subject to the Roman law, does not regard penitential confession to a priest in the light of privileged communications. It is the same with the law of this country, except when the common law is superseded by the statute law of the different States. By the law of New York, for instance, (sec. 2 Revised Statutes, 406, 72,) it is enacted "that no minister of the gospel, or priest of any denomination whatsoever, shall be allowed to disclose any confessions made to him in his professional character in the course of discipline enjoined by the rules or practice of such denomination." In the commencement of last year a decision was rendered to this effect in our own courts in a case almost identical in its features with that of Cronin. A similar statute exists in Missouri, but we are not aware that it has yet been adopted by Virginia or any of the other States of the Union. Should we be right in this assumption, the decision of Judge Meredith would be manifestly unsound in law, however much it might be consonant to our notions of religious toleration.

The Young Troubles of Australia—Immigration.

It appears that the young colonists of Australia are destined to their share of troubles in peopling their new country. The early settlers of America, we are told, did not know which was the greater evil, to lack hands to dig the soil, or to introduce into their new home foreigners whom they judged would make bad neighbors and mischievous citizens. Thus while Kieft and Suyvesant in New Netherlands were holding out promise after promise, and the Dutch West India Company was offering free passages, free land, and tools and cattle to stock it with, to such as chose to emigrate to their portion of the continent, the rigid men of Massachusetts were even refusing hospitality to those who did not profess the "true Christian religion," all New England was shutting its door against the Quakers, and even Virginia would not suffer "Papishers" to spend more than five days within the Province.

The Australians appear to be passing through this stage of their existence. On the one side, their country offers capacities for ten-fold the labor which it contains; on the other, they find that they have already among them a class of foreigners who are a loss rather than a gain.

These last, it must be mentioned, are the Chinese. They have flocked to Australia in such numbers that they constitute already an important body in the State, and exercise no small influence on the market price of labor. Thus we find it stated in an Australian journal that cotton may probably be grown in certain regions of the continent, the great objection—the cost of production—being likely to be obviated by the increasing immigration of Chinese, who are willing to work for next to nothing. At the same time, moderate as their expectations are, they spend so little that after a few years labor they contrive to save a small fortune, which they invariably remit to China. In one journal before us we find it mentioned that passengers by the Nile for Hong Kong had paid duty on 170 ounces of gold which they were taking away with them. A day or two before the paper stated that "shipments by Chinese immigrants amounted on the aggregate, in one day, to 1,228 ounces," and another statement mentions the export to China per the Vigilant at 4,762 ounces. It is not surprising that the Australians should begin to ask themselves whether the country derives any benefit at all from a class of laborers who, while they disturb the natural proportions of labor and demand for it, make no return to society by using the wealth they gain in the place where it is amassed. No country can prosper where it is the rule for any extensive class of the people to board up money until they have made a fortune and then go abroad and spend it; this is the worst kind of absenteeism, and the recent report to the Legislature of California, in which it is seriously stated that the Chinese emigrants are a curse instead of being a blessing, and that it devolves upon the Legislature to devise means actually to protect the State against their inroads, does them no injustice, and only reflects the honest opinion of sensible men on the subject. The Australians do not yet seem to have gone so far as to think of excluding the Chinese from their country. But if vessels bound for Hong Kong continue to carry home four thousand ounces at a time, the immigration will increase, and the Coolies will soon drive all other labor out of the market, and drain the country of the capital necessary for its development. This, of course, will not be tolerated, and, possibly a precedent may be afforded the embarrassed Legislature of California for expelling the Chinese, and prohibiting their future importation save under new and peculiar conditions.

While these questions are arising on one side, some noise is made on another by the Spanish Consul—the last person in the world one would have expected to hear of in Australia. He, it seems, was directed by his government to ascertain what advantages Australia would hold out to Spanish emigrants over the United States and the Spanish colonies in America. The government officials politely referred him to the published regulations respecting foreign immigrants in general, and declined to make any difference in favor of Spaniards. This by no means satisfied the Consul, who strangely enough seems to have imagined that the Aus-

tralian government would be willing to provide work for the Spanish immigrants from the day of their arrival—so little do these continental Europeans dream of independence. He even found a member of the Australian Assembly to bring the matter before the House, and to argue that it would be so great an advantage for the colony to have the Spaniards settled within it, that a trifle might be paid to each to encourage them. The matter is taken up by a writer in one of the local journals and handled with some ability. He shows that the Spaniards whom the government seeks to get rid of are the old Carlists of the northern provinces, who are obnoxious to Isabella's government; that at home they are ignorant, idle, bigoted, and devoid of enterprise; that they are rabid Catholics, while the colony is mostly Protestant; in short, that they would be as great a nuisance as the Chinese. It appears, however, that this sentiment is not that of the ruling powers. And we must not be surprised if we hear that Spain, which the geographers tell us is a large thinly peopled country with some twelve or thirteen millions of inhabitants, where there used to be far more, is so troubled by a superfluous population that she has been obliged to ship off her peasantry to Australia, like cattle, at so much a head.

Of course the colony is thriving or there would not be so much anxiety to get there. Politics are quiet once more, the home government having enough to do, for the time, with the Russians. The gold supply keeps up; according to the official returns, the shipments for the first six months of the year 1855 were fifty-seven tons twelve cwt., equal in round numbers to \$27,500,000, while California during the first nine months of the same year has only shipped \$31,697,631.

GEN. SCOTT AND HIS BACK PAY.—MEAN CONDUCT OF THE ADMINISTRATION.—Several of the morning papers having announced that, after a delay of more than eight months, General Scott's claim to the back pay &c., of a Lieutenant-general from the capture of Vera Cruz, the date of his brevet—now amounting for the eight or nine years to some forty thousand dollars—had been fully allowed at Washington, brought about the veteran, yesterday forenoon, troops of congratulating friends. We have just seen one of that crowd, who himself had quite an audience in the street, who represents the General as most indignant at the final decision, as it gives him only about a fourth of the above amount so justly claimed by him, and which pittance he will, we learn, reject with disdain, as was clearly foreseen and desired at Washington.

If we are rightly informed, Attorney General Cushing decided that the rank, pay and emoluments of Lieutenant-general were all, by the recent law, in favor of Gen. Scott, revived and re-established as they severally attached to ex-President Washington in 1798-9; but that Secretary Davis, a bitter personal enemy of Gen. Scott, has had the influence to defeat the intention of Congress to the extent above stated.

WASHINGTON NEWS.—We publish a copious mass of information from Washington in our special correspondence of this morning's issue. The statements concerning the intrigues within and without the kitchen, for the succession, are very curious and suggestive. Marcy's position on the Danish South difficulty, and Seward's late visit to Washington, are satisfactorily accounted for; and the news from Madrid, including the official programme of Mr. Dodge, is exceedingly interesting. We commend the whole dish to the digestion of our politicians and readers generally. The pot is beginning to simmer at Washington; but it will boil terribly with the meeting of Congress, when the most horrible ingredients will be thrown upon the surface. Awful times are coming. Stand firm.

ENGLISH OPERA.—THE PENE AND HARRISON TROUPE.—After a season of unprecedented length and wonderfully sustained success, the engagement of this excellent company is drawing to a close. To-morrow night Louisa Pene takes her benefit. It is unnecessary for us to predict that it will be something more than is contemplated by the theatrical acceptance of the world. It will be a regular ovation.

No foreign artist that has visited our shores, with the exception of Jenny Lind, has ever succeeded in so completely establishing a home in the hearts of the American public as this admirable vocalist. She came amongst us heralded not only by the fame of great talents, but that reputation of high principles and correct conduct which, unfortunately, is not always the concomitant of artistic eminence, but which, with a people like us, will always prove a strong recommendation to support. One of the most affectionate and devoted of daughters, she would not yield her moment to the tempting inducements laid out to her to visit this country unless on the condition that she was to be accompanied by her parents—both, we regret to say, confirmed invalids. In her professional tours since her arrival here, they have invariably travelled with her, her affection, as well as her delicate sense of propriety, rendering their society indispensable to her. We mention these facts because they bring out into bold relief the virtue and amiability of a character which we have instinctively learned to love and esteem from such slight evidence as the stage affords us. It is but the homage due to the union of qualities which we rarely find combined in a profession offering greater temptations than prizes. It is to be hoped that the public will, on Friday next, manifest their sense of its justice by thronging in crowds to Niblo's, to pay a farewell compliment to an artist whose services have conferred upon them so much gratification.

It is a feature of some interest in the career of this troupe that it has reserved for itself the first American opera that has ever been produced. For the effective management of the troupe, the success of the season, which it has had the honor to inaugurate, is due to the tact and judgment of that excellent artist, Mr. Harrison, who spared neither trouble nor expense in rendering it worthy of so interesting an occasion as the inauguration of a national opera. How we succeeded our readers can testify. Notwithstanding the prejudice which, unfortunately, exists against native musical talent, "Miss Van Winkle" has had a greater share of success than the most sanguine friends of the composer anticipated for it.

We trust that the professional troupe which this excellent troupe are about making through the South and West, will be as fruitful in triumphs and pecuniary rewards as their last season here. Should it prove otherwise, we can only say that the good people of these regions have no ear for the appreciation of really fine music.

ANOTHER OCEAN LINE OF TELEGRAPHS.—Since the partial failure of the attempt to lay the submarine telegraph at Point au Basque, public attention has been directed to the other route proposed, viz. Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Mr. Horace B. Tebbets of this city, has obtained the exclusive right from the government of Denmark to land cables on the shores of Greenland, and the Philadelphia Board of Trade has recently passed a resolution calling upon the government to send out a surveying, exploring and sounding expedition, to explore the coasts and waters of the countries above named. Our navy might be much more profitably employed than it is generally, and such an expedition as that proposed by the Board of Trade would be useful, even if no telegraph cables were ever laid.

ANOTHER PRIZE FIGHT.—Another pugilistic display is to come off in the Canada side of the river, within the course of two weeks. The "Knock down" is to be between Sweetman and Dutch Sam, both belonging to this city, and fighters by profession. The amount is \$500.—Buffalo Courier, Oct. 30.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY ELECTRIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

From Washington.

GEN. SCOTT'S BACK PAY.—VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY LAWS, ETC. WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 1855.

Lieut. General Scott will receive upwards of \$10,500 back pay, by virtue of his brevet appointment, dating from March 29, 1847, or about \$1,300 a year additional to his pay and emoluments as Major General.

Commodore Paulding left here this afternoon, to join his flag ship, the Potomac, at New York, which sails for the West Indies shortly.

The whole number of applications for bounty land warrants, at the Pension office, under the late act, is 222, 800, and of warrants issued, 56,643. The applications are now decreasing, only 5,500 having been received during October.

Nothing has been heard from the British government respecting the representations of our government to it concerning the violations of our neutrality laws by English officials in the matter of enlisting troops for the Crimea.

Gov. Seymour on the Stamp.

Syracuse, Oct. 31, 1855.

Governor Seymour addressed the democracy this afternoon, and John Van Buren this evening, at Westing Hall. The place was crowded.

Massachusetts Politics.

Boston, Oct. 31, 1855.

Messrs. Rufus Choate, George S. Hillard, and Peleg W. Chandler, addressed the whole in Faneuil Hall this evening. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the enthusiasm was such of anything yet witnessed in our political career.

Later from Havana.

New Orleans, Oct. 31, 1855.

By the Granada we have Havana dates to the 27th inst., but the news is wholly unimportant.

Destruction of a Ferryboat by Fire.

Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1855.

The steamboat Mariner, belonging to the West Jersey Ferry, was totally destroyed by fire at 2 o'clock this morning, while lying at her wharf at Camden. The company had just completed some repairs upon her, and the fire was kindled under her boilers yesterday for the first time. The loss is \$25,000. Insurance \$10,000.

Fire in Buffalo.

Buffalo, Oct. 31, 1855.

The machine shop of the Buffalo Car Works was burned last night. Loss \$10,000—fully insured.

Disaster to the Ship Gosauier.

Boston, Oct. 31,